

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Education Working Group

MEETING NOTES

2002 Jan 30

Meeting at Channel Islands National Park Headquarters Auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM by Julie Bursek of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS).

In attendance:

Co-Chairs: Larry Manson, Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Education Rep., Ventura College

Kathy deWet-Oleson, SAC Education Rep. Alternate, Moorpark Community College

Michael Murray, CINMS

Nancy Berenson, CINMS

Julie Bursek, CINMS

Shauna Bingham, CINMS

Michael Smith, CINMS

Michael Hanrahan, Ocean Channel, Inc.

Andy Prokopow, Environmental Coalition

Pat Fresh, Moonspace Corp.

Frank Sullivan, ACSFA United Anglers

Frank Ursitti, Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab

Tim Overstreet, Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab

Paul Valentich-Scott, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Sheila Cushman, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Michele Gilmour, Channel Islands Harbor

Dan Pearson, Point Mugu Wildlife Center

Barry Hummel, Jr., MD, Blue Planet Marine Research Foundation

Eric Kett, Blue Planet Marine Research Foundation

Chris Nelson, Commercial Fishing

Alex Brodie, Island Packers

Yvonne Menard, Channel Islands National Park

Julie Bursek (Julie) extended a welcome and Larry Manson (Larry) asked the participants to introduce themselves.

Larry provided an overview, describing how advisory committees and working groups function within the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Larry explained that the most prominent, recent example is the SAC's now-disbanded Marine Reserve Working

Group (MRWG). Now, there is a need for education, both as a preparation for the possible implementation of marine reserves and for the broader awareness of activities, issues, and nature of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Mike Murray (Mike), SAC Coordinator for CINMS, spoke of the marine reserve process, the history of the MRWG, and the role of the Education Working Group (EWG):

2 1/2 years ago the MRWG was formed as a working group by the SAC to determine if (and where) marine reserves should be put in place within CINMS. A consensus was reached that marine reserves are necessary, and on a problem statement, goals, and implementation recommendations; but there remained disagreement about the final recommended size and placement of the reserve areas.

In August of 2001, Matt Pickett, Manager of CINMS, and Patricia Wolf, Marine Region Manager for the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) made a joint recommendation based on the MRWG's findings.

DFG recently released a set of five possible maps for marine reserves and one plan recommending no action at this time. The public is welcome to comment on these options, and the Fish and Game Commission will make a decision on this in August of this year.

At this time, the SAC is anticipating that some form of marine reserves may be in place as early as 2003 January 01 and is going forward with implementation planning.

Even if no reserves are put in place, there is still a big need for this Education Working Group as there are many sensitive areas within CINMS that need protection and could benefit from this group's suggestions on education and outreach. People need to know why, what, where, and when.

Responding to a question, Mike said that the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) is in a re-formative process and it

is still possible that, by decision of the Fish and Game Commission, marine reserves in CINMS could be delayed and possibly merged into the MLPA. However, because CINMS and the SAC established its marine reserve process separately and prior to the MLPA, both continue to move forward separately at this time.

Mike announced the schedule of SAC Meetings for 2002, at which it is hoped that reports from the EWG will be presented: Mar 15 -- May 8 -- Jul 12 -- Sep 13 -- Nov 13.

It is expected that following the Fish and Game Commission's decision later this summer, the SAC will convene its various working groups (education, marine reserves monitoring, enforcement) at a workshop to create specific plans of action.

The basic role of EWG at this time is to determine who needs to get the message about marine reserves and how and what educational products will be needed. (See further comments about EWG role below in preparation for next meeting.)

A question was asked about enforcement and what the jurisdictions are. Yvonne Menard (Yvonne) of Channel Islands National Park (CINP) described the overlapping jurisdictions:

CINP: mean high tide to 1 nautical mile

DFG: mean high tide to 3 nautical miles

CINMS: mean high tide to 6 nautical miles

CINP is empowered to enforce DFG regulations within their jurisdiction.

Question: How is the marine reserve process funded?

Answered by Mike: Governmental organization budgets and partnerships.

Question: What is the impact on taxpayers, especially local taxpayers?

Answered by Larry: Minimal to none. The scope of the project is minimal related to the total federal budget, and benefits from eco-tourism and the long-term health of marine environment, including fisheries, will outweigh costs.

At this point, there were some comments that were re-treading the path of MRWG, and the co-chairs asked that EWG not go in that direction.

All participants agreed to be part of an email list for notices regarding EWG. Yvonne is temporarily without email and will need to receive and send information by fax (805) 658-5799.

Julie presented a process for Assessing Needs. Because EWG is a diverse group it will be appropriate for those with certain experience and/or expertise to form committees to work on particular messages to particular audiences.

She emphasized that EWG must make regular reports to SAC with an indication that the process is moving forward. The immediate time frame, therefore is the next SAC meeting: 2002 March 15.

Comment: If we haven't established a message, we do not know whom it is for or how to construct it.

Larry asked Mike the likelihood of having marine reserves established.

Mike said that there is no way to know with certainty at this stage, but that everyone he has talked to feels that marine reserves are likely to be established at the Channel Islands. Mike suggested that the group work on the assumption that we will have marine reserves because if we wait until we know for sure, we will not be ready to get the message out.

Eric Kett (Eric) read the goal statement agreed on by SAC at their last meeting:

Marine Reserves Education Plan Development:

CINMS requested that in 2002 the SAC recommend to CINMS and partners a suite of strategies,
specific actions and draft products for marine reserves education, delivering draft recommendations by
the September 13 SAC meeting.

Eric further suggested that we need to make assumptions: If reserves are X, we have to do Y.

Julie and Shauna Bingham (Shauna) talked about educational activities of CINMS, and they emphasized the diversity of their targets and therefore, products for achieving their goals, which are accomplished through collaborations and partnerships. They were asked to bring a sampling of products – especially material about marine reserves -- to the next meeting (see below).

Question: Education is a form of “sales.” Aren’t we taking sides? Aren’t we taking the side that reserves are needed?

Larry noted that this group was again trying to revisit MRWG, which did achieve a consensus that reserves are needed. He asked EWG participants if anyone thought there should be no education about CINMS.

No one thought there should not be education, and so Larry said we had a consensus.

There was a tangled discussion about “good” and “bad” education.

Eric noted that there are right now marine reserves -- though very limited -- in place in CINMS. How do we get the word out?

Yvonne suggested that EWG should acknowledge that there are people who do not agree that marine reserves should be in place and their position needs to be considered in getting whatever message out to them.

Shauna and Julie suggested that EWG look beyond reasons marine reserves are necessary. We should avoid blaming particular groups. We need to be objective.

Larry then asked if we could agree that we have existing marine reserves and that we need to educate about those reserves. There was agreement.

The questions quickly became: “Who uses the Channel Islands waters where there are reserves?” and “How do we reach the users?”

Suggestions included:

- Launch ramps
- Bare boat charters
- Party boats + users
- Tackle + Dive shops (where people get their licenses)
- Yacht Clubs-Sailing Clubs-Kayaks, etc.
- Private Fishing Clubs
- Marinas
- Charts

Question: Since “everyone” uses GPS, why aren’t reserves delineated in nautical charts?
Isn't this something NOAA
could/should do?

What are restrictions? What can’t one do? Motor? Sail? Paddle? Swim? Fish? Dive?
Touch? Etc.

- Schools: adult + children
- Other educational “platforms”: aquariums, museums, visitors’ centers, etc.
- Community events: boats shows, fishing + outdoors, whale-watching, etc.
- Surfers and water organizations
- Tour groups
- Elder hostels
- Community Organizations: Lions, Rotary, etc.
- Parks + Recreation

Question: What is geographical reach of EWG message and products?

The meeting was scheduled to end at 4 PM. A few minutes past 4, Kathy asked who wants and who does not want to be a part of EWG. All said they wanted to participate.

Meetings will be held approximately every six weeks.

After discussing requirements of time and commitments to meetings, Pat Fresh said she would like to be an “intermittent” member. Sheila Cushman said that either she or Paul Valentich-Scott would represent the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Both will not attend all meetings.

The next meeting will focus on prioritizing who needs to get the message about marine reserves and how best to reach them.

A participant, who had to leave the meeting early, left behind a list of suggestions for the group, which included the following points:

- It is the responsibility of EWG to create "purpose/mission/goal" statements.

- To support this, EWG needs:

- Background reading materials on marine reserves - perhaps a presentation by Satie Airame from CINMS?

- Examples of marine protected area and marine reserve educational materials, in addition to specific educational materials from CINMS that include a description of programs and an outreach calendar of events. Include material from Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), which has marine reserves in place and existing educational programs.

- Create a glossary of acronyms and of marine protected area terminology for the participants.

The next meeting will be 2002 February 27, from 2 to 4 PM, (hopefully) at the Waterfront Classroom in Santa Barbara Harbor.